

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. The topic is what a paragraph or essay is mostly about. Similar to "main idea."
2. Transitions link ideas together, and they frequently show order (sequence).
3. Conclusions should summarize/restate the main points of the essay.
4. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

The following is a rough draft of a student's report, which may contain errors.

Albert Einstein

(1) Albert Einstein is one of the few people in history to have changed the way people look at the world. (2) Surprisingly, one of history's greatest scientists struggled in school when he was a child. (3) Early on, he had trouble coping with a learning disability which caused one of his teachers to conclude that he would never be successful. (4) What his teachers didn't know is that Einstein loved studying mathematics by himself.

(5) This theory has changed the course of science because he was able to show that energy, light, space, and time are all related. (6) Einstein proved that gravity actually curved the fabric of space. (7) Even more interestingly, he showed that "time" itself was not constant. (8) He showed that "time" is slowed down as an object's speed approaches the speed of light. (9) By the time he was 40, he was world famous.

(10) Later in life, Einstein became famous for encouraging the United States to develop an atomic bomb. (11) Einstein moved to America when Hitler began persecuting Jews in Germany. (12) Germany and America were at war, and Einstein knew that Germany was trying to invent an atomic bomb. (13) Horrified by this prospect, he wrote a letter to President Roosevelt telling him that bombs of incredible power could be made by splitting atoms. (14) The American effort to develop the bomb was successful, and it brought an early end to World War II. (15) However, Einstein was so sickened by the destructive power of the atom bomb that he spent the rest of his life looking for peaceful uses for atomic energy.



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(16) Einstein proved that the universe operates under a system of basic laws.
(17) He famously said, "I cannot believe that God plays dice with the cosmos."
(18) His theory of relativity allows us to better understand and travel in our universe.
(19) Finally, he worked diligently to make the power of the atom more of a blessing than a curse for humanity.
(20) Thankfully, his early teachers were very wrong about the extent of his success.

SAMPLE



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1 Which sentence is the topic sentence for the report?

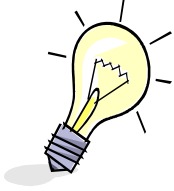
- (A) Einstein's first great achievement occurred when he developed his theory of relativity.
- (B) Albert Einstein is one of the few people in history to have changed the way people look at the world.
- (C) Later in life, Einstein became famous for encouraging the United States to develop an atomic bomb.
- (D) What his teachers didn't know is that Einstein loved studying mathematics by himself.

2 Which transitional phrase was used to connect the second and third paragraphs?

- (A) Later in life,
- (B) Finally,
- (C) Early on,
- (D) However,

3 Which sentence could *best* be added to improve the transition between the first and second paragraphs?

- (A) Einstein was born on March 14, 1879, in Ulm, Germany.
- (B) Einstein was born in Germany to Jewish parents.
- (C) The distance that light travels in one year is known as a "light-year."
- (D) Einstein's first great achievement occurred when he developed his theory of relativity.



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4 The purpose of the concluding paragraph at the end of the report is to

- (A) list the sources used to write the report.
- (B) explain how the atomic bomb was created.
- (C) summarize the main points from the report.
- (D) mention other interesting details about Albert Einstein.

5 Which sentence in the conclusion summarizes the ideas in paragraph 1?

- (A) sentence 17
- (B) sentence 18
- (C) sentence 19
- (D) sentence 20